

1882



1965

Regimental Dinner

SERGEANTS' MESS
REGINA

SATURDAY, MAY 15, 1965



Royal Canadian Mounted Police

*The Sergeants' Mess
Regina*

REGIMENTAL DINNER

Commemorating the

SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY

of the

Province of Saskatchewan



The Sergeants' Mess
Regina

Regina, May 15, 1965

I am pleased to have this opportunity to welcome our honourable guests and the honourary and ex-members to the Sergeants' Mess Dining-In. It is all too infrequent these days that we have the pleasure of such a large reunion of old comrades-in-arms and the joy of recalling the memories, faces and places of other days.

We are joined here in honour of the Diamond Jubilee of the Province of Saskatchewan and those of us that serve here, in fact all of the members of the Force, feel a personal identity with this Province, which we salute and wish for it continued growth and prosperity.

To our retired comrades I would like to extend the gratitude of the Members of the Mess for their contributions in the past and say we look forward to continued happy relationships with those whose efforts we endeavour to emulate in the time honoured tradition.

William F. MacRae.
Corps Sergeant Major.
Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

*"A pleasant city on a boundless plain,
Around rich land, where peace and plenty reign,
A teeming mart, wide streets, broad Squares,
bright flowers"*.

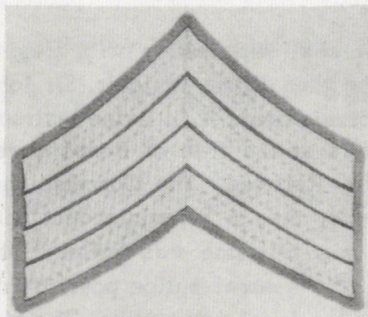
Nicholas Flood Davin.

While the area around Regina was known to the North West Mounted Police for some years, it did not become intimately associated with them until the coming of the railroad. About the first mention of the area in which Regina now stands was in 1804 when Daniel Harmon of the North-West Fur Company viewed from Pilot Butte what was known to the Crees as "Ooskunna Kahstakee"—the Great Pile of Bones. This was an old buffalo pound on the main trail from Fort Qu'Appelle to Wood Mountain and the Cypress Hills, visited periodically by the nomads of the plains. It was not until seventy-seven years later that the first homesteader, Edward Carss, arrived to put down roots in that place that would in 1882 steal the seat of the territorial government from Battleford. In 1905 this small town would again take another step forward by becoming the capital of the new province of Saskatchewan, which took its name from the great river of the prairies, "Sis Sis Katchewan Sepie"—the Big Angry Water.

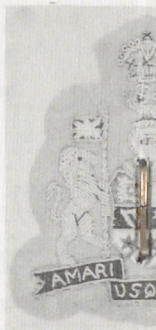
The beginning of the Forces' association with Regina began on July 29th 1882 when the then Prime Minister, Sir John A. McDonald sent a telegram to Commissioner A.G. Irvine instructing him to locate his Headquarters at the Pile of Bones Creek on or near the Canadian Pacific Railroad. The Commissioner directed General Sir "Sam" Steele, then a Superintendent with the NWMP, to go to where the new rail line was building and select a site. Prior to this time, the nearest police post to this area was at Fort Qu'Appelle near the local golf course. The site chosen was a section of land homesteaded by a Mr. George Moffat, who later became an Inspector with the Force.



SERGEANT MAJOR



STAFF SERGEANT



CORPS SERGE

MESS MEMB

CORPS SERGE

W.F. M

STAFF SERGE

J. Rob

STAFF SER

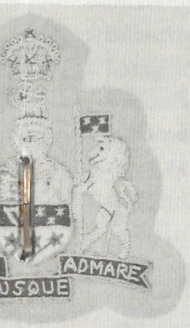
P.A. Anderson
R.N. Baynes
D.E. Chapple
C.J.W. Chester
G.A. Fallis
J. Gongos
E.C. Hill

W.F. Isaacs
D.B. Lem
C. Lynn
D.J. McMa
R.G.C. M
E.T. Park
H.J. Pear

SERGE

B.H.M. Armstrong
R.P. Arsenault
D.B. Blackburn
R.E. BrownLee
R.R. Canning
W.L. Carter
J.C. Dowie
K.W. Ferguson
T.W. Foster
P.A. Gelley
R.C. Harrison
S.J. Kirby

W.M. Lee
W.F. McC
D.B. McIn
R.R. MacL
P. Mardel
R.A. Muir
F.W. Peir
W.R. Pict
R.F. Pict
K.O. Pre
R.C. Rich
R.H. Roth



ERGEANT MAJOR

MEMBERS - 1965

ERGEANT MAJOR

F. MacRae

ERGEANT MAJOR

Robinson

SERGEANTS

Isaac

Lemieux

nn

McMahon

C. McWhirter

Parker

Pearce

T.J. Peck

W.D. Pomfret

W.H. Preston

W. Schramm

H.G. Van Dusen

A. Zitzelsberger

ERGEANTS

Lee

McCheyne

McIntyre

MacKeracher

rdell

Muir

Perry

Pigton

Pitcher

Preece

Richards

Roth

P.J. Ryan

M.G. Schell

G.W. Skuce

H.H. Smith

R.E. Sondergaard

F.T. Tweed

H.K. Ward

J.W. Warren

D.A. Whyte

R.J. Woolger



STAFF SERGEANT MAJOR



SERGEANT

On August 23, 1882 the first passenger train stopped at Regina and in late October the new buildings for the Barracks arrived. These were portable or pre-fabricated and were shipped from suppliers in Ottawa and Sherbrooke. They provided accommodation for one hundred men and sixty horses and were erected in very short order. On December 6th 1882, the Commissioner formally transferred his Headquarters from Fort Walsh to the new Barracks. Outside the new NWMP Headquarters the first building to go up in Regina was the Court House, completed in 1882.

From the number of criminal cases tried there, (386 in all) the following year it would seem that the police had more than enough work to keep them busy.

The year 1883 was a busy one for the new town of Regina. It was growing by leaps and bounds. New official buildings were going up and the office of the Indian Commissioner was transferred from Winnipeg and the creek flowing through it was named by the Prime Minister on the intervention of Nicholas Flood Davin, the founder of the Leader Post.

As far as the Headquarters of the Force was concerned, it was to a great extent a community of its own. It had its own saddlers, tailors, carpenters, blacksmiths and armourers shops, and all the other skills necessary to existence on the frontier in those days. There was however one thing lacking in this small complex community, and that was a church, however Mrs. Herchmer the Commissioner's wife, set out to rectify this matter. A building which had been constructed in Ontario and sent west and was used as a Mess Hall up to 1890 and as a Canteen for the next four years was selected. Through the efforts of the post carpenters and a number of men, the structure was renovated, pews installed and the steeple erected.

In 1900 when Major General A.B. Perry, C.M.G., became Commissioner he made many new and sweeping changes. Not the

least among these was his recommendations that a reserve of a minimum of fifty constables be formed and these would be continually under training in Regina and available as replacements for emergency duties in the field. As a result of this "Depot" Division came into being. Considering the A.T.C. courses there today, it is enlightening to read the report of the C.O. "Depot" Division in 1910. He states:

"class of 20 members assembled on February 1st and continued the special course of training until April 30th, when they were passed by yourself (the Commissioner); after an examination lasting one week; in mounted and dismounted work, driving, harnessing, camping, packing and the many special duties which members of this service are called upon to perform."

The Force in Regina contributed significantly to the frontier life those days. Once a week in the winter, the band played at the local skating rink in Regina and for the fancy dress carnival and all other important functions. The grand balls at the Barracks were social highlights and the men and their wives sponsored many public entertainments such as dramas comedy skits, musical events and minstrel shows. The proceeds from all these events went to various local charities. The post hospital too, played its role. On occasions, dangerously ill town people were admitted, an important service when no similar facilities were provided by the city. The fire brigade at the Barracks also was available to the people of Regina and was used on many occasions.

As time went by changes appeared on the Square at the Barracks. In 1919 the guardroom and Sergeant Major's house were demolished to make room for "C" Block. Ten years later the Sergeants' Mess, situated on the north-west corner of the Square where the road now enters from the North Gate, was also

torn down. However, the new Mess had been in operation in the north wing of the new "A" Block since 1912. By this time the number of members living on the Barracks ground had diminished since the Commissioner and his staff had been moved to Ottawa. The frontier town of Regina was grown into a small city and over it and the Barracks had settled a mantle of stability and permanence.

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A U T O G R A P H S

